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NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF
ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

INFECTION THROUGH THE EYE.—An article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* asserts that large numbers of organisms including the pneumococcus, streptococcus, influenza bacillus and others may be received from the conjunctival sac and therefrom may be carried into the nose through the lacrimal duct, and from thence backward into the nasopharynx. Masks do not protect the eyes, as a rule. This portal of entry is, therefore, of importance in the transmission of acute respiratory infections.

MODIFICATION OF BRADFORD FRAME.—*The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* describes a modification of the well known Bradford fracture frame. An upright bar is attached to the bottom of the frame with which is connected a sliding bar supporting an adjustable pulley carriage. This bar is fastened to the top and bottom of the upright with an adjustable brace. It is thus possible to move the patient in bed without the least change in the position of the fragments of the fractured bone. The sheets can be fastened to the upright. The apparatus can be used in septic conditions of the leg and foot requiring elevation and traction.

MAGNESIUM SALTS AND BACTERIA.—*The Journal of Infectious Diseases* states that Epsom salt is useful in streptococcus skin affections. Any concentration of magnesium sulphate used externally will check them.

ENEMA IN SURGERY.—A writer in the *Texas State Journal of Medicine* recommends the use of an enema instead of a purgative before abdominal operations. An ordinary soap and water enema of one quart is given in the evening preceding the operation and another early in the morning. Plenty of water to drink is given during the night and until within an hour of the operation. Nausea is less frequent after anesthesia as the result of the fluids left in the tissues.

IMMUNIZATION AGAINST SCARLET FEVER.—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* reports the experience of an Italian physician who has successfully vaccinated children against scarlet fever. The sero vaccine was obtained from desquamated scales of scarlet fever patients. Of forty children immunized by this means and left in the same room, sleeping in the same bed, with scarlet fever patients, not one contracted the disease and no case developed in the hospital wards after scarlet fever had been imported. Of twenty-five

children in families where there was a case of the disease, not one contracted it. There were no ill effects, except very rarely a slight transient eruption, with no throat symptoms or fever.

VACCINE TREATMENT OF PERTUSSIS.—The same journal, quoting from another Italian contemporary, says that an autogenous vaccine prepared from the whole sputum of whooping-cough patients had effected a cure in the forty-seven cases treated. It is believed to be the most effectual means of treating whooping-cough yet known.

EMERGENCY DRESSINGS.—It is advised that the clothing over a wound should be slit and turned back instead of being removed. This avoids exposure and chilling of the patient. After the dressing is in place the garments can be readjusted and fastened above and below with strips of gauze. After an amputation, the leg or sleeve, can be tied below or turned back and fastened.

SYPHILIS AND INFANT MORTALITY.—The *American Journal of Syphilis* states that seventy-five per cent of all the offspring in a syphilitic family are infected. Thirty-five per cent of the pregnancies terminatae in death at or before term, three times as many as in non-syphilitic families. Thirty per cent of all living children die in infancy, about twice as many as the normal rate. Only seventeen per cent of all the pregnancies in syphilitic families result in living healthy children who survive infancy.

THE TOMATO AS AN ANTISCORBUTIC.—The *Journal of Biological Chemistry* states that tomatoes either fresh and raw, or dried by hot air, are valuable as a preventive of scurvy. Experiments upon guinea pigs has proved the efficacy of this vegetable for the purpose.

NUTMEG IN AMEBIC DYSENTERY.—The *Medical Record* mentions the improvement of a patient with amebic dysentery, after an administration of selected grated nutmeg (*myristica*), 30 grains, three times a day. Emetin had been tried in vain. The frequent spasmodic pain disappeared and after three weeks' treatment no cysts were found in the stools.